GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2131
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Clearance to Private TV Channels
S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of private TV channels in the country do not possess security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned departments;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether his Ministry is granting licence /renewing licences of these TV channels despite denial of security clearance from other concerned Ministries/ Departments to these TV channels, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING {COL RAJYA VARDHAN RATHORE(Retd.)}

(a) to (d): Private satellite TV channels are permitted by Ministry of I & B to uplink/ downlink in this country only after obtaining security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and clearances from other concerned departments as required under the extant uplinking/ downlinking guidelines.

Permission/ renewal of permission of Satellite TV Channels whose security clearance is denied by MHA are not granted. Such permission holder companies are issued Show Cause Notice (SCN) on the basis of legal advice obtained recently that gives them an opportunity to make their representation.

After consideration of the same, their permission is cancelled with the approval of competent authority on merits. At present, there are 8 permission holder companies as per Annexure, to which MHA has denied security clearance. Out of them 4 have been served SCN and 3 are under process. Ministry will decide on these cases on the basis of their reply in consultation with MHA. One permission holder company which also held FM Radio license was denied security clearance on the same grounds for both activities and has gone to the Court. Ministry will take further action after receiving the orders of Hon'ble Court.

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